



# New Jersey's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)

# Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge

- New Jersey joins 19 other state grantees who secured funding from the U.S. Departments of Education and Health & Human Services.
- At the heart of the grant is the identification and implementation of common standards across our agencies to create a Quality Rating Improvement System.

# New Landscape of Early Learning and Development Programs

- Significant federal investment in early learning and development programs.
- More than \$1 billion in Race to the Top- Early Learning Challenge projects in 20 states.
- In addition, \$500 million in federal funds for Early Head Start and Child Care Partnerships.
- New rules to raise quality across all federally funded programs.

# Quality Rating Improvement System



**QUALITY:** Evidence-based quality efforts, activities, and support designed to help programs continuously advance from good, to better, then BEST!



**RATING:** Easy to understand visual symbol that indicates high quality programs

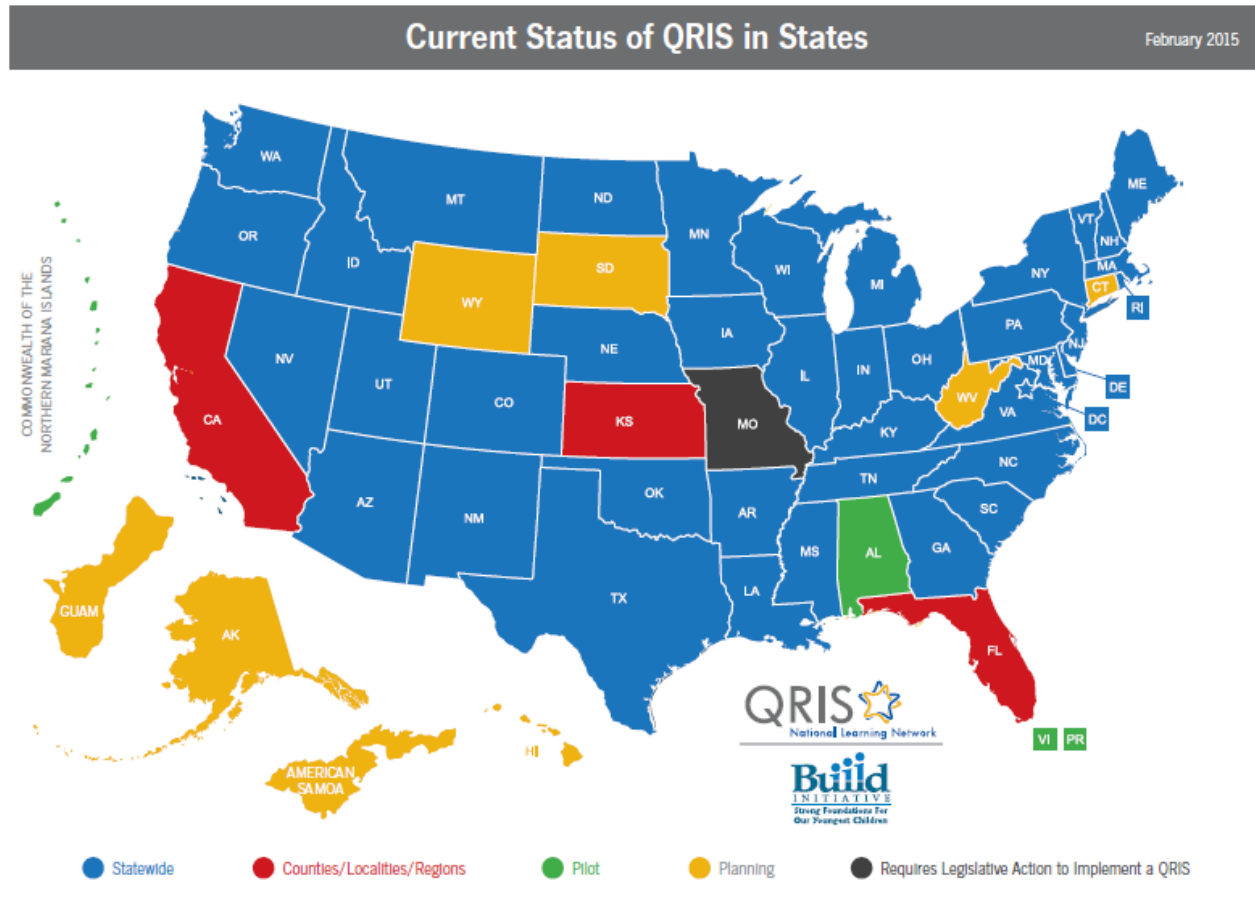


**IMPROVEMENT:** Activities, efforts, supports, resources, and assessments working together to yield positive child outcomes



**SYSTEM:** Process and framework of interrelated parts working together to support healthy development and school readiness

# 40 States in the nation have a Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS):



# Introducing Grow NJ Kids New Jersey's QRIS

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# Grow NJ Kids – Core Elements



# Grow NJ Kids

- **Grow NJ Kids launched its pilot phase in Spring 2013 in three counties and one city.**
- **Based on lessons learned, we refined the program.**
- **Now, our goal is to enroll over 400 sites each year.**



# Who can enroll in Grow NJ Kids?

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# You!

# Self-Assessment

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## Standards

**Safe, Healthy Learning Environment**  
**Curriculum and Learning Environment**  
**Family and Community Engagement**  
**Workforce/Professional Development**  
**Administration and Management**

# Grow NJ Kids Process

- 1) Register with Professional Impact New Jersey (PINJ) and complete the enrollment form
- 2) Online Orientation
- 3) Self-Assessment
- 4) Quality Improvement Plan
- 5) Rating

# Grow NJ Kids Enrollment


available on [www.pinjregistry.org](http://www.pinjregistry.org)




## STATE OF NEW JERSEY's QUALITY RATING IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM ENROLLMENT FORM Child Care Center/Head Start/School District

Program Profile Information		
First Name:	Last Name:	Title:
License ID#: (If Applicable)	License Capacity:	License Expiration:
Program/School Name:		
Program/School Address:		
City/Town:	Zip Code:	County:
Phone:	Email:	
Accredited: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Name of Accreditation:		Accreditation Valid Until: MM / DD / YY
Active Member in Professional Impact of New Jersey (PINJ) Registry: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Umbrella Organization/Lead Agency Contact Information (if applicable)		
Organization/School District Name:		
Address:		
City/Town:	Zip Code:	
First Name:	Last Name:	
Title:		
Phone:	Email:	
Program Information		
Check all that apply:		
Head Start:	<input type="checkbox"/> Subsidized Program via CCR&R:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Early Head Start:	<input type="checkbox"/> Private School for Children with Disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preschool in a former Abbott (school-based):	<input type="checkbox"/> Private, non-profit:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preschool in a former Abbott (provider):	<input type="checkbox"/> Private, for-profit:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other district preschool:	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuition-based (some or all children):	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Program is in good standing with Office of Licensing: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> License Exempt <input type="checkbox"/>		
Program is in good standing with State/Federal Programs (DHS, DOE, HS): Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Are you using a nationally-recognized or state DOE-approved curriculum: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Name of curriculum: _____		
Are you using the NJ Birth to Three Early Learning Standards/Preschool Standards: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Participating in or have participated in the Strengthening Family Initiative: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Participating in the USDA Food Program: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Does your program serve English language learners? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> How many? _____		
Does your program serve children with disabilities in:		
Self-contained classrooms? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusion classrooms? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		

# Professional Impact New Jersey (PINJ) register at [www.pinjregistry.org](http://www.pinjregistry.org)



professional  
IMPACT NJ  
advocating growth for  
early childhood educators



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conducted by  
**Community  
Coordinated  
Childcare of  
Union County**

### User Registration

\*Required Field

Salutation: \*

First Name: \*

Last Name: \*

Former Last Name:

Email Address: \*

Re-Type Email Address: \*

Password (at least 6 characters, including 1 letter and one digit): \*

Re-Type Password: \*

Address 1: \*

Address 2:

Zip: \*

City: \*

State: \*

County: \*

Daytime Phone: \*

Evening Phone:

☐ I have read and agree to provide my contact information in accordance with the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#).

[Request Enrollment Now](#)

# Directors' Orientation

- Orientation provides framework and clearer explanation of Grow NJ Kids
- The orientations are intended for directors and administrators only
- It allows you to ask questions and learn from your peers

# Grow NJ Kids – Quality Improvement Plan

- **Develop a Quality Improvement Plan after you complete the Self-Assessment.**
- **Apply for incentives to address areas to be strengthened.**
- **You will be provided with support through the development and implementation of your Quality Improvement Plan.**

# Grow NJ Kids – Rating

*“Rating is not the destination; it is the set of benchmarks along a pathway of ongoing improvement” - Anne Mitchell*

- Identify your level of quality.
- Serve as a “Consumer Reports” for families.



# Ratings

- Will be a combination of portfolio review and assessment scores completed by NJ Center for Quality Ratings at William Paterson University
- Rating of 3, 4, or 5 Star will have assessment score requirements, curriculum training and CLASS Assessment in the higher levels (4 and 5) plus a range of points to achieve
- Each standard will be given a point value-range of points to obtain the star rating

## Ratings cont.

- A brief summary will be provided to the programs of the findings from the outside Rater
- The time for the rating process will vary depending on program size
- Final rating will be provide by Grow NJ Kids Administrators

# What are the benefits of enrolling now?

## Incentives

- Professional Development Training
- Teacher Supports
- Scholarships
- Classroom Enhancements
  - Classroom materials and supplies
  - Verification of the request that it is related to quality improvement plan is required
  - Requests can be done in stages
- Grow NJ Kids Campaign and Marketing to Families



Helping NJ's youngest  
kids thrive.

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.com

Raising the quality of child care and early learning in New Jersey



Ayudamos a prosperar a  
los niños más pequeños de NJ.

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Elevamos la calidad del cuidado infantil y del aprendizaje temprano en New Jersey



## It's so much more than a walk in the park



Grow NJ Kids is working to raise the quality of child care and early learning across the state of New Jersey.

For parents, it provides information to help them make the most of their kids' early learning opportunities, including tips on selecting quality child care and early learning programs.

Research shows that children who are in quality early learning programs when they are young are better prepared for kindergarten with better reading skills, more math skills and larger vocabularies.

Visit [GrowNJKids.com](http://GrowNJKids.com) for parenting resources.

NJ Departments of Children & Families, Education, Health, and Human Services.

grow  
nj kids  
.com

# Additional Benefits for School Districts and Head Start

- **Check and balance – to ensure compliance with Head Start Performance Standards**
- **Non-Abbott Districts will be able to look deeper at the quality of their programs**
- **Access to the free professional development**

# Reasons to love Grow NJ Kids!

## Grow NJ Kids will:

- Help you stand out amongst your peers.
- Help you promote your high quality program to families.
- Benefit children by helping them be ready for kindergarten.



# Next Steps

1. Complete enrollment form on PINJ
2. Register in Professional Impact New Jersey's (PINJ) Registry at [www.pinjregistry.org](http://www.pinjregistry.org)
3. Check [www.GrowNJKids.com](http://www.GrowNJKids.com) regularly for new information/announcements

# Recap



**Grow NJ Kids is a powerful tool for all programs to move toward good, then better, then BEST!**

**And remember, you are not in this alone.**

# Q & A

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**You have questions?**

**We have answers!**

# For Additional Questions Contact:

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**Division of Family Development**  
**[info@GrowNJKids.com](mailto:info@GrowNJKids.com)**

